

Remarks

Claims 1-5, 18-22 and 47-50 were pending for this application. Claims 1 and 3-4 have been amended to place the Claims in condition for allowance as the Examiner has earlier acknowledged. Claims 2, 18, 20, 22 and 47-50 have been cancelled without prejudice. Accordingly, claims 1, 3, 4, 19 and 21 are now pending, of which claims 1, 3 and 4 are independent.

Applicants respectfully submit that this amendment has been made in good faith, that no new matter has been added and that the claims are in condition for allowance.

Election/Restriction

Applicants have been required to elect a single disclosed species (i.e., a single amino acid position) for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable under 35 USC 121. The Examiner states that currently Claims 47-50 are generic.

Applicants respectfully submit that with the cancellation without prejudice of Claims 47-50, the election requirement is no longer applicable.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the election requirement.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants acknowledge that claims 2-4 have been objected as being dependent upon an objected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants respectfully submit that with the amendment of Claims 1 and 3-4 and the cancellation without prejudice of Claim 2, that Claims 1 and 3-4 are condition for allowance.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the claims. If the Examiner wishes to advance the prosecution, or if the

amendment is defective or unclear, then the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

If this response is not considered timely filed and if a request for an extension of time is otherwise absent, Applicant hereby requests any necessary extension of time. If there is a fee occasioned by this response, including an extension fee, that is not covered by an enclosed check, please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 23/2825.

Respectfully submitted,
Stocker et al., Applicants

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Docket No. G0307.70017US00

Date: October 7, 2003

X10/09/03